

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
14TH ARMORED DIVISION, APO #446
U. S. ARMY

5 Dec 1944

The following type arrangement of columns for "Road Fighting" are published. These relate to a CC comprising two front line units, - one infantry battalion and one tank battalion. Battalion commanders are authorized to make the changes necessary to meet their special situations. Form of deployment for each attack will be prescribed by the responsible commander on the ground.

<u>Column #1</u>	<u>Column #2</u>	<u>Reserve</u>
1-B-94	3-B-94	Hq CCA, MP & Sig Dets
Lt Tk Plat	Lt Tk Plat	B-94(-)
		C-125 (-)
Plat A-25	Plat B-25	C-25
Tk Dozer	Tk Dozer	Co 84 <i>184</i>
Plat A-62	Plat B-62	Combined Trains
FO	FO <i>B-62</i>	
CO A-62	CO Rifle Co 62	
CO 25	CO 62	
*Arty	*Arty <i>B</i>	
A-62(-)	Rifle Co 62(-)	
1-C-125	2-C-125	
A-25(-)	B-25(-)	
Hq 25(-)	Hq 62(-) <i>C</i>	
D-25(-)	Rifle Co <i>A</i> 62	

* In the initial movement to contact the essential vehicles of the firing batteries of the attached or supporting Arty with the Bn Fire Direction Center, will march as indicated. It will leave the road and move into firing positions either when contact is made, or to previously reconnoitered positions, when this latter can be accomplished. The remainder of the front line battalion immediately moves up, closing the gap left by the artillery.

KARLSTAD

OFFICIAL

GENTRY
S-3

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HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
14TH ARMORED DIVISION, APO #446
U. S. ARMY

7 December 1944

ASSAULT OF FORTIFIED POSITION

Reconnaissance element reconnoiters zone to locate enemy installations including enemy mine-fields, tank obstacles, and pill-boxes, and to determine terrain best suited for the assault.

Arty Comdr will plan Arty fires (TOT) selecting possible enemy OP's to be smoked.

The Arty will cover the objective with adequate fire, rate of fire: - two rds per gun per min for 10 minutes and one rd per gun per two minutes (salvo fire) thereafter. The medium tank platoon, the infantry heavy machine gun platoon (reinforced w/HMG from HTs) and AT Platoon will occupy firing positions delivering direct fire on specific pillbox embrasures in accordance with detailed plan prepared by column commander. The tank dozer will be available to improve the direct firing positions where practicable. The rifle company and engineer squad will move thru dragons teeth in assault squad formation (see TM atchd), and will assault the pill-boxes, two squads attacking each pill-box with one squad in reserve. When an assault squad reaches a given pillbox, it will fire a colored signal flare to lift the MG and tank fire on that pill-box. The assault squad will then employ the flame throwers and place the demolition charges, then proceed against another pill-box. In the meantime, the remainder of the engineer platoon will move to dragons-teeth and make a gap 18 ft wide. When the gap is made the tank dozer will improve it for passage of the remainder of the column.

The medium tank company(-) will then maneuver thru the gap leaving the first platoon in firing position as a base of fire until tank company(-) and the remainder of the infantry pass thru the gap. This maneuver force will complete the destruction of the pill-boxes.

File: 34K
VGLA

PLAN OF ATTACK FOR THE SIEGFRIED LINE

General Plan of Attack:

Two days prior to actual breach of fortification, artillery should be fired on all known pillboxes, turrets and troop shelters. The 8 in. howitzer using fuze 105 CPC has been observed to be effective. Direct fire by 105mm (using same type fuze) and 75 and 76.2mm guns on known enemy positions should be continuous until fire is marked by assaulting troops. The condition of the ground in this sector prohibits the use of more than two platoons of tanks at once.

The assault groups should receive at least two days' training under direct supervision of the Engineers.

If bombing by air can be accomplished against enemy fortifications without necessitating the withdrawal of troops from present location, bombing of targets marked on overlay would be desirable. This would have a demoralizing effect on enemy troops, it would provide craters as cover for our assault troops, and may destroy some enemy installations.

In the plan of attack it is contemplated that the left assault company move thru the W section of Ober Otterbach. The attack would be made with rifle companies abreast, B on the left of C. The attack would be made taking the enemy positions from the S flank, moving to the high ground N of Ober Otterbach. Having cleared positions W of the town, Co C moves into town with one platoon of tanks under cover of smoke (see overlay). From this position the tank platoon forms a base of fire to support assault groups of Co C as they assault fortifications on the high ground vic (170530). The engineer platoon would clear two passages thru the dragon-teeth, one for tanks and one for wheeled vehicles. The breach is estimated to take from ten to twenty minutes. As soon as the high ground is secured the remainder of the tank company should displace to it to take under fire all pillboxes visible. Under this covering fire and heavy artillery fire on the next ridge N, a reorganization would be effected. This entire operation would be repeated on the next ridge until a gap has been effected large enough to permit rapid reinforcement.

Method of Attack on Individual Pillbox:

Supporting pillboxes to flanks of selected fortification will be engaged with fire from tanks and machine guns. Support elements of assault groups engage firing and vision embrasures on selected pillbox. Under cover of this fire the demolitions men place their charges and await explosion. Grenades will be thrown in the breach and the assault group moves to adjacent pillbox to repeat operation. Mop-up groups closely follow to kill remaining occupants of blown emplacement.

Recommended Formation of Assault Groups:

<u>No. of Men</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Equipment</u>
1	NCO - Leader	Pistol, 3 WP Grenades
3	Demolition Men	Pistol, 40 lbs. ea. TNT
2	Support	SMG, 6 Frag Grenades
2	Support	M-1, 6 Frag Grenades, 2 WP Grenades
2	Wire Team	Pistol, 2 - 5 ft. sec. bangalore, ea.
1	Welder	Portable welder, pistol

Do not recommend use of flame thrower as the operator is too much of a target for the results to warrant it. The flame thrower may be held in reserve.

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Communications:

Communications should be by means of SCR 300, sound power telephone, pre-arranged pyrotechnic signals, and runner. Close coordination is extremely important so that fires from supporting weapons may be lifted on call, and so that new emergency targets can be engaged.

AB Seifert
SEIFERT
S-3

Edwards
EDWARDS
Cmdg

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HEADQUARTERS 48TH TANK BATTALION
A. P. O. 446 U. S. Army

21 December 1944

PLAN FOR ATTACK ON MENFELD

Requirement:

- a. To formulate definite complete plans for capturing fortified area in vicinity Menfeld.
- b. To accomplish this mission, the towns of Steinfeld, Schaidt, and Freckenfeld must be captured and consolidated first.

Solution:

For purposes of this plan it is assumed that the coordinated plan of attack on a fortified area such as Menfeld, with minor alterations, will be the same as those used on Steinfeld, Schaidt, and Frenkenfeld. Due to the fact that we have personal knowledge of what actually confronts us at Steinfeld, the attack will be planned for Steinfeld, and same general plan used on series of strong points.

Troops Required:

Due to the fact that the 48th Tank Bn at present consists of the following combat elements:

A - 48
A - 68
D - 48
B - 94
Mortar Plat - 48
A/G Plat - 48
Rcn Plat - 48
1 - C - 125

Request the following troops for this operation:

1 Inf Regt
1 Bn Armd FA
B - 48
C - 48
1 Co TD's
1 Btry 8" guns
1 Plat 4.2 smoke mortars
1 Co Combat Engrs

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General Plan:

1. Night before attack from 1700 to 0700, Rcn troop will carry out heavy patrol activity from RR on south to CR 162 on north. At 0730 rcn will withdraw to flanks on south below RR on North-North and west of CR 162.

2. At 0800 place artillery concentration 20 minutes by Corps artillery just in rear of dragon teeth from 220495 to 227505. Then more Corps Artillery fire to rear of Steinfeld for 30 minutes.

3. Place smoke screen on lines 227505 - 220505 and 227500 - 220500 at 0830. Keep screen up until 0900.

4. Feint attack by tank company between smoke screens. At 1000 smoke lines 214499 to 225494. Maintain smoke until called upon to stop.

5. At 1015 Infantry Bn supported by medium tank company and one combat engineer platoon working in Inf, Tank, and Engineer teams, attack on axis 209493 to 229505.

6. Upon penetration of Steinfeld by Infantry, Tanks, and Engineers to Line 229505 - 235500, they will consolidate for passage thru them of second Inf Bn, Medium Tank Co, and 1 Combat Engineer Company(-) for attack on Schaidt.

7. When first combat team has consolidated Steinfeld, second combat team will move on town of Schaidt supported by same type of Artillery fire plan as used on Steinfeld. Upon penetration of Schaidt to eastern end, combat team will consolidate for passage thru of Combat team number three.

8. Combat Team #3 will attack town of Frechenfeld using same general tactics and fire plans as used by Combat teams #1 and #2.

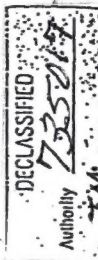
9. Upon completion of combat team #3 mission, Combat team #1 will attack Menfeld using same type of tactics and artillery plan.

10. Upon capture of each town, reserve combat team will push up and support assaulting combat team.

11. Organization of assault teams and mop up teams for assault of each pillbox.

Assault Team

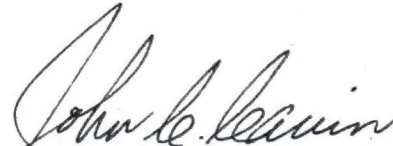
- a. Inf assault team 12 men
- b. Engr demolition crew for dragon teeth 6 men
- c. Light Tank section



Mop Up Team

- a. Section Med Tanks with Tank dozer.
- b. Platoon TD's
- c. Demolition crew of Engr
- d. Squad of Infantry

12. Tanks not assigned to assault teams or mop up teams in support will form base of fire direct on boxes to be assaulted. Tanks lift fire on assault teams signal.



JOHN C. CAVIN
Major, 48th Tank Battalion
Commanding



HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
14TH ARMORED DIVISION, APO #446
U. S. ARMY

File
CHK.

21 Dec 1944

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ASSAULT OF SIEGRIED LINE BY REINFORCED BATTALION

Tps: Tk Bn(-2 Med Cos)
2 Inf Cos
Plat Engr.
Tr Ron (-Plat).

Supporting

Tps: Div Arty (-Bn)

Ron determine detailed location of fortifications, obstacles, and terrain most suitable for Atk.

Arty CO prepare detailed plan of fires including recommendations for employment of 4th chemical mortar company. Plan/smoking of known or suspected enemy OP's and of specific pillboxes. Coordinate Arty fires with indirect fires of supported Bn.

Bn CO make plan for coordinated Atk employing all means to fullest extent possible. Suggested plan for Atk: Arrange preparation and smoke fires with Arty CO indicating specific targets.

The Arty will cover the objective with adequate fire, rate of fire: - two rds per gun per min for 10 min and one rd per gun per two min (salvo fire) thereafter. The medium tank platoon, the Inf heavy machine gun Plat (reinf w/HMG from HT) and AT Plat will occupy firing positions delivering direct fire on specific pillbox embrasures in accordance with detailed plan prepared by column commander. The Tk Dozer will be available to improve the direct firing positions where practicable. The rifle Co and Engr Squad will move thru dragon teeth in assault squad formation (see TM Atchd), and will assault the pillboxes, two squads attacking each pillbox with one squad in reserve. When an assault squad reaches a given pillbox, it will fire a colored signal flare to lift the MG and Tk fire on that pillbox. The assault squad will then employ the flame throwers and place the demolition charges, then proceed against another pillbox. In the meantime, the remainder of the engineer platoon will move to the dragon teeth and make a gap 18 ft wide. When the gap is made the tank dozer will improve it for passage of the remainder of the column.

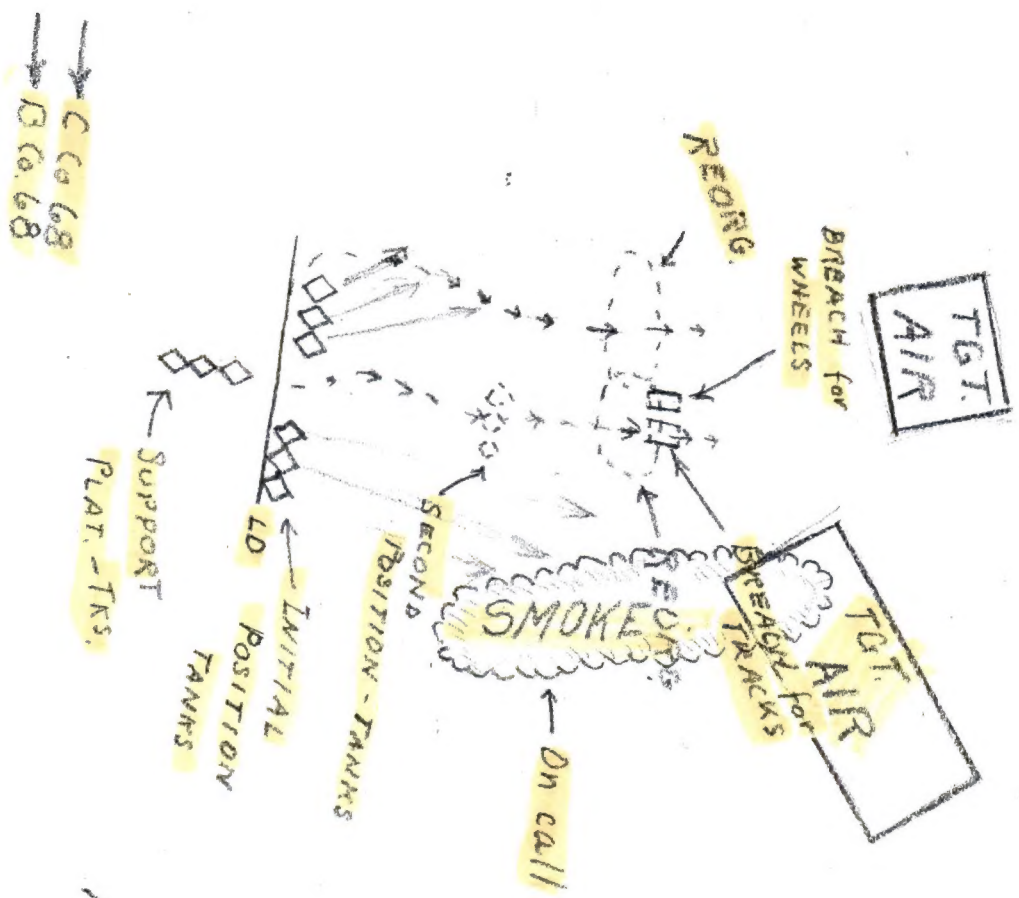
The med Tk Co(-) will then maneuver thru the gap leaving the first plat in firing position as a base of fire until Tk Co(-) and the remainder of the Inf pass thru the gap. This maneuver force will complete the destruction of the pillboxes.

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use radio also, perhaps wire

16
54

TIME: 1300



Overlay of General
Attack Plan - 68 AIB
Map: Wissemboorne 1:25000
21 Dec 44

20 50